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Senate

The Senate met at 9:30 a.m. and was called to order by the Honorable BENJAMIN L. CARDIN, a Senator from the State of Maryland.

PRAYER

The Chaplain, Dr. Barry C. Black, offered the following prayer:

Let us pray.

Eternal God, the giver of every good and perfect gift, thank You for the favor which You have given to humanity. We are grateful, Lord, for the nobility You have placed in human hearts that enables us to toil until we pass the breaking point and still not break. Thank You that You have enabled us to love until even self is forgotten. Thank You also for those who willingly sacrifice even life itself for the things they hold dear. Thank You that goodness always haunts us and sin ever brings its remorse.

Thank You for the Members of this legislative body who labor to be Your ambassadors of reconciliation in a divided world. May they commit their time, effort, and resources to formulate public policy in keeping with Your will for our beloved Nation.

We pray in Your great Name. Amen.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Honorable BENJAMIN L. CARDIN led the Pledge of Allegiance, as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

APPOINTMENT OF ACTING PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will please read a communication to the Senate from the President pro tempore (Mr. BYRD).

The legislative clerk read the following letter:

U.S. SENATE,
PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE,
Washington, DC, May 14, 2008.

To the Senate:

Under the provisions of rule I, paragraph 3, of the Standing Rules of the Senate, I hereby appoint the Honorable BENJAMIN L. CARDIN, a Senator from the State of Maryland, to perform the duties of the Chair.

ROBERT C. BYRD,
President pro tempore.

Mr. CARDIN thereupon assumed the chair as Acting President pro tempore.

RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The majority leader is recognized.

SCHEDULE

Mr. REID. Mr. President, following leader time, there will be a period of morning business for up to 1 hour, with the time equally divided and controlled between the two leaders or their designees, with the majority controlling the first half and the Republicans controlling the final half. Following morning business, the Senate will resume consideration of H.R. 980, the collective bargaining legislation. Rollcall votes are expected to occur throughout the day.

Debate on this legislation has been exemplary. All amendments to this point that have been offered relate to labor issues. That is important. This is a bipartisan bill. We should be able to legislate on this, hopefully get it completed in the near future. There is a lot of pent-up desire on both sides to offer amendments on all different issues, but I think we would get more done if we could focus on this legislation.

I indicated to Senator ENZI, who was so involved in this, how we would proceed. He has been, as he always is, a gentleman. Senator KENNEDY and Senator ENZI didn't get everything worked out on this piece of legislation that

they wanted prior to coming to the floor; therefore, Senator ENZI feels an obligation to offer some amendments to take care of some of the issues he believes are important, and I support him on that.

MEASURE PLACED ON THE CALENDAR—S.J. RES. 32

Mr. REID. Mr. President, S.J. Res. 32 is at the desk and due for a second reading.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will read the resolution by title for the second time.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A joint resolution (S.J. Res. 32) limiting the issuance of a letter of offer with respect to a certain proposed sale of defense articles and defense services to the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia.

Mr. REID. I object to any further proceedings with respect to the joint resolution.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Objection having been heard, the joint resolution will be placed on the calendar.

FARM BILL CONFERENCE

Mr. REID. Mr. President, before turning this over to the Republican leader, we have worked long and hard on the farm bill. It is a bipartisan bill. It has been a struggle to get where we are. I so appreciate the work done by Senators who are responsible for bringing this to the floor, Senators HARKIN and CHAMBLISS, BAUCUS, GRASSLEY, and a lot of other players who are involved. It is a very important piece of legislation. We expect to turn to the farm conference report as soon as we receive it from the House. We even will try to do it before it comes here, if we can get a consent agreement. We hope we can limit debate on this matter and get it out of here.

Remember, this week we have to hopefully dispose of the collective bargaining legislation. We have to take

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.



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